

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



MARCH 26, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
March 26, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude: Pacem

-Lee Dengler, 2003

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: O mortal, can these bones live?

All: **Only the Lord God knows.**

One: O people, hope in the Lord.

All: **With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Lord God, Great I AM,
you are resurrection and life.
As we worship you this day
show us who we are:
bearers of good news,
messengers of resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

No. 142

*Invitation to Confession

To set the mind on the flesh is death,
but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
Trusting in the Spirit of God,
let us confess our sin.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

O Lord, if you held our sin against us,
who could live, who could stand?
We seem to have more faith in death
than hope in your promise of life.
We seek peace through war
and find security in weapons.
We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying,
and pursue wealth by making others poor.
And even so, you love us;
still there is forgiveness with you!
Therefore we worship you;
for you alone, O Lord,
can save us from death
and redeem us from our sin. Amen.

***Kyrie Eleison**

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!
If Jesus Christ dwells in you,
the Spirit of God will be your life
and the grace of God will be your righteousness.
And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you,
then God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
will also give life to your mortal bodies.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri** (*unison*)

Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, we wait for you,
and in your Word we trust.
By the power of your Spirit,
set our hearts and minds
on the source of life and peace:
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

No. 579

First Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

P. 806 in the Old Testament

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O LORD GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the LORD GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Antem: I Wonder as I Wander

*-Appalachian Carol
adapted John Jacob Niles, 1934 / arr. Fred Bock, 1976*

Second Scripture Reading: John 11:1-45

P. P. 104-105 in the New Testament

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

(Continued on Next Page)

Second Scripture Reading: (continued)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Sermon: A Wonderous Sign

Rev. Jim DeMent

John 11:41-43: "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

No. 316

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Jesu Dulcis Memoria

-Andernach, 1608

***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

Holy God, giver of life,
we thank you for raising us up
and joining us together
as one people, your people,
flesh and bone in the body of Christ.
As you have delivered us from death,
use our lives to proclaim the good news
of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** (*unison*)

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** "Live Into Hope"

No. 332

***Charge**

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** (*unison*)

-Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

God be with you until we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you 'till we meet again

'Till we meet, 'till we meet
'Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
'Till we meet, till we meet
God be with you 'till we meet again.

Postlude: O Praise The Gracious Power

-Andernach, 1608

The Creed of the United Church of Canada

Below are the lyrics of the hymns selected for this morning’s worship service. All the hymns below are either in the public domain or have been reproduced, under license, from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990) or from Christian Copywrite Licensing International (*ccli.com*). If you are worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1
Verse 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

All hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On His terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
and crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Live Into Hope

Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God’s own jubilee!

Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one’s daily bread,
To hear God’s word and thus be fed.

Live into hope the blind shall see,
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear
A vision of God brought near.

Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Joey Farrell	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)
Kathleen McCameron	Linda Patterson	Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Mikey Ruddock
Michael Cabrera (Grandson of Martha Tarkington)	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)		

**For caregiving concerns—please contact:
Lynn McAuley (979.248.6238)**

FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

Tuesday, March 28

1:00 PM Book club meeting in the Parlor

Sunday, April 2

9:30 AM “2023 Lent Devotions Examen: Inward Work
For Outward Living”
Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class

9:30 AM Kingdom Kids– Sunday School for
children ages 5-12

10:30 AM Worship Service
The Lord’s Supper

**FPC Victoria Servant Leadership
Session Members**

Jim DeMent, Moderator

Class of 2023

John Horadam, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Ass’t Clerk, Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson, Clerk of Session, Membership

Class of 2024

Frances Byrne, Caregiving & Fellowship, Personnel
Patrick Patterson, Building & Grounds, Finance
Becky Richter, Christian Education, Mission & Outreach

Class of 2025

Donald Anderson, Mission & Outreach
Leila Galvan, Christian Education
Camille Miller, Worship

Other

Dawn Neel, Treasurer
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Jim Stokes, Assistant Treasurer

Pastor’s Notes

There are countless artistic depictions of the raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus. For this morning’s Bulletin cover, your pastor has selected a tempera and gold leaf on panel depiction of the scene by the Italian renaissance artist, Giovanni di Paolo (c. 1420-1482). The work was originally part of a predella (paintings on the base of an altarpiece) in the church of San Domenico in Siena, Italy. While the main altar panel remains in Italy, this part of its predella is housed in The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

Although Giovanni di Paolo called his work “The Resurrection of Lazarus,” theologically that is a misnomer. Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, but Lazarus of course would eventually die a mortal’s death once more. Only Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead by the grace of God. He did not die again but rather lives and reigns in heaven as we await his return to establish God’s kingdom on earth.

Di Paolo’s work is biblically accurate in other respects, however. Many paintings (but not di Paolo’s) depict Jesus performing his miracle inside Lazarus’ tomb, but actually Jesus called to Lazarus from outside the tomb. Moreover, Lazarus emerged from the tomb still wrapped in his burial shrouds (John 11:43-44). When Jesus was resurrected, his burial shrouds were left behind, even to the point of being neatly folded (John 20:5-7). Although not a resurrection, the raising of Lazarus is one of the seven signs recorded by John so that we “may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing [we] may have life in his name” (John 20:30-31).

Clergy, Music, and Administration

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster
Erica Colding, Office Administrator

Office Hours

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